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SMALLPOX IN THE UNITED STATES.

PREVALENCE DURING OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER, 1912.

Information regarding the reported prevalence of smallpox during the fourth quarter of the calendar year 1912 is available for the District of Columbia and the 32 States enumerated in the tables on pages 1276 to 1284. Cases of smallpox were notified in the District of Columbia and in all the States reporting to the Surgeon General.

A summary of cases and of deaths reported in each State will be found given by States and by months on page 1276. A table giving cases and deaths by counties and by months will be found beginning on page 1276.

During the fourth quarter of the year, 5,422 cases of smallpox, with 43 deaths, were reported in the District of Columbia and the 32 States reporting. The 43 deaths reported occurred as follows: In Texas 26 deaths were reported from 176 notified cases; in Pennsylvania 5 deaths were reported from 106 notified cases; in California 2 deaths from 126 notified cases; in Indiana 2 deaths from 348 notified cases; in Massachusetts 1 death from 37 notified cases; in Kansas 1 death from 55 notified cases; in Iowa 1 death from 81 notified cases; in Alabama 1 death from 111 notified cases; in Maine 1 death from 150 notified cases; in Oregon 1 death from 213 notified cases; in New York 1 death from 372 notified cases; and in Washington 1 death from 481 notified cases.

A virulent outbreak of smallpox occurred in Hunt County, Tex., where 20 deaths were reported from 70 notified cases during the months of November and December. The outbreak of the virulent type of the disease which occurred in Pittsburgh, Pa., during the third quarter of 1912 extended into the first month of the fourth quarter, when 4 deaths were reported in 32 cases notified.

With the exception of the outbreaks of virulent smallpox noted in Texas and Pennsylvania, the disease as reported was of the mild type. In Washington 481 cases were notified, with but 1 death; in New

York 372 cases, with 1 death; in Oregon 213 cases, with 1 death; in Maine 150 cases, with 1 death. In 21 States a total of 3,166 cases were reported without a death.

The largest numbers of cases were reported in the following States: Utah 707, Minnesota 703, Washington 481, New York 372, Indiana 348, Wisconsin 284, Illinois 267, Michigan 250, Oregon 213, Ohio 178, Texas 176, Maine 150, California 126, Virginia 115, Oklahoma 113, Alabama and North Dakota 111 each, Vermont 110, Pennsylvania 106. The smallest numbers were reported as follows: Wyoming 2, Connecticut and New Jersey 3 each, District of Columbia 7, Colorado 15, Florida 17, Maryland 20, Massachusetts 37, Arizona 45, Kansas 55, North Carolina 57, Montana 69, Iowa 81, and South Dakota 90.

Smallpox was also present in States not enumerated in the table, but information regarding the number of cases occurring in them has not been available.

During the first quarter of 1912 there were reported 8,850 cases of smallpox, with 81 deaths; during the second quarter 5,734 cases, with 53 deaths; during the third quarter 2,070 cases, with 58 deaths.

The reports from Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York for the fourth quarter of 1912 gave the vaccination histories of the patients in detail as follows: In Massachusetts, of 37 cases notified 1 of the patients had been vaccinated within 7 years preceding the attack, 1 had been last vaccinated more than 7 years preceding the attack, 25 had never been successfully vaccinated, and in 10 cases the vaccination history had not been obtained. In Minnesota, of 703 cases notified 12 of the patients had been vaccinated within 7 years preceding the attack, 44 had been last vaccinated more than 7 years preceding the attack, 550 had never been successfully vaccinated, and in 97 cases the vaccination history had not been obtained. In New York, of 372 cases notified none had been vaccinated within 7 years preceding the attack, 29 had been last vaccinated more than 7 years preceding the attack, 204 had never been successfully vaccinated, and in 139 cases the vaccination history had not been obtained.

FUMIGATION OF VESSELS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF RATS.

By S. B. GRUBBS, Surgeon, and B. E. HOLSENDORF, Pharmacist, United States Public Health Service.

The fumes of burning sulphur, which have for so many years been used empirically by practical sanitarians to arrest the advance of epidemic diseases, remain to-day the most convenient and efficient fumigant. The efficiency of sulphur fumigation rests on its well demonstrated germicidal qualities, its safety, and the ease with which it may be applied.

For the destruction of rats on board of vessels, as an antiplague measure, the burning of roll sulphur in iron pots, has not been dis-